

REMARKS

Claims 4-6 and 14 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 4 is amended and claims 1-3 and 7-13 are cancelled.

Claims 1-3 and 7-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Arai et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,812,210) in view of Binder (U.S. Patent No. 6,016,113). By this Amendment, claims 1-3 and 7-13 have been cancelled. Accordingly, the rejection is moot.

Applicant appreciates the acknowledgment of allowable subject matter in claims 4-6 and 14. These claims were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. By this Amendment, claim 4 is rewritten in independent form and, accordingly, the objection of independent claim 4 and dependent claims 5, 6 and 14 are moot. It is respectfully requested that this objection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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